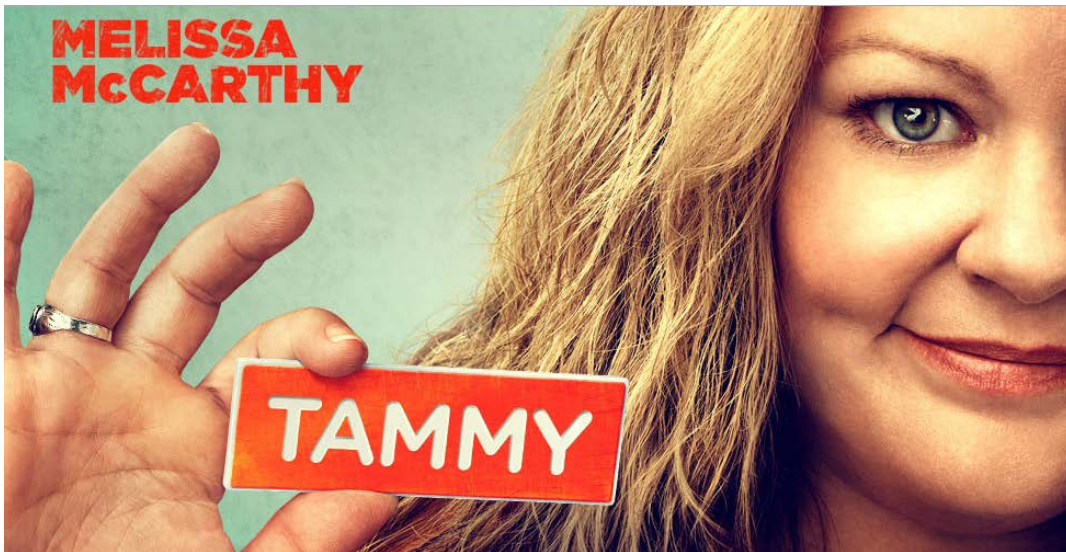


Tammy
By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



Tammy is the latest madcap romp starring Melissa McCarthy as a lonely woman whose bad behavior gets her in trouble again and again. McCarthy is the reigning queen of bad and her outrageous behavior leads her to venture along the highways with a transformed Susan Sarandon in a wild and crazy road trip that teaches both of them some well needed lessons in life. McCarthy has this genre down pat.

While *Tammy* does not deliver the same level of laughs as her other vehicles, it is a good first effort for McCarthy independent of the bigger budgets. *Tammy* was co-written and produced by McCarthy and directed by her husband, Ben Falcone, who has a small role as Tammy's boss.

McCarthy has the proven box office clout and freedom to risk a smaller project like *Tammy* and the risk is worth taking. McCarthy seems to be finding her way as a comedy star, but should be careful not to become a caricature of her past performances. She's much better than that. I know there is a serious performance in there and I look forward to seeing it. When *Tammy* is at her best is when she is serious and able to change her ways meaningfully. More proof that there is a lot still left to discover about Melissa McCarthy.

Tammy is a comedy about self-discovery and growing up in an age where adolescence is prolonged and the usual trajectory of personal development is interrupted or stalled. The ability to look at your life in a different way and to make the adjustments that are needed to navigate adulthood is there inside Tammy, just waiting for the right time and place to come out. *Tammy* shows us that at every age, you can still grow.

If you like McCarthy's other films, by all means, spend the afternoon with *Tammy*. I give *Tammy* three fast food places.

